

Application No. 10/696,575
Response dated August 30, 2004
Reply to Restriction Requirement of August 11, 2004

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action of August 11, 2004. This Election is fully responsive thereto.

In the August 11, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner required a restriction with respect to two Groups: Group I (claims 1-4 and 11-17) and Group II (claims 5-10). Applicants confirm the telephonic election of Group I made by Elwood Haynes on July 6, 2004. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction because it fails to comply with proper US PTO restriction practice.

This restriction was made on the basis that the two inventions are unrelated, and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects. More specifically, the Examiner maintains that the invention of Group I may be used to clean a furnace, incinerator, or fuel tank structure.

However, Applicants assert that the specification clearly discloses throughout the text that the two inventions *are* in fact connected in design, operation and effect. For example, a reading of the specification shows that the lance of claims 1-4 may be used within the boiler system of claims 5-10 by the method of claims 11-17. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to MPEP sections 808.01 and 806.04 for an explanation of the US PTO's restriction practice guidelines.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below. It is believed that no fee is due at this time. If that belief is

Application No. 10/696,575
Response dated August 30, 2004
Reply to Restriction Requirement of August 11, 2004

incorrect, please debit deposit account number 01-1375. Also the Commissioner
is authorized to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-1375.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher J. Cronin
Registration No. 46,513

Date: September 13, 2004
Air Liquide
5230 S. East Ave.
Countryside, IL 60513
(708) 579-7925 Phone
(708) 579-7801 Fax

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile
to telephone number 703-872-9306 on this 13th day of September, 2004.



Christopher J. Cronin
Registration Number 46,513